From October 2000, these schemes have been subsumed under Macro Management Programme with a view to provide flexibility according to regionally differentiated needs of the States.

A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'On Farm Water Management for increasing Crop Production in Eastern India' was launched from 2002-2003. The objective of the scheme is to increase production & productivity of crops through exploiting abundant ground/ surface water, in the Eastern India. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for (i) installation of shallow tube wells (STW) with pumping sets, (ii) electric/diesel water pumping sets, (iii) Low Lift Irrigation Points (LIP), and (iv) dug wells in hills and plateau regions. The scheme is being implemented in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The scheme is a back-ended credit linked one and is being implemented through the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development.

As regards pulses, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits etc. Under the centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) launched in April 2004.

Drought Assistance to Rajasthan

†1609. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan is reeling under severe famine until the arrival of new crops;

(b) whether drought condition in the State is far more severe than that of other States;

(c) whether Government plan to provide financial assistance to that State for drought relief until arrival of the new crops in the month of November; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) This year, a number of States have reported drought situation of varying magnitude. Rajasthan has declared drought in parts of 25 districts in the State. In response to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking assistance of Rs. 2378.64 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and 28.80 lakh MTs of foodgrains for relief employment, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State recently and its report is under preparation. The entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2004-2005 amounting to Rs. 188.71 crores has been released to the State. As interim assistance 2 lakh MTs of foodgrains have also been allocated free of cost.

Kharif Production

1610. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kharif output will be lessar than that of 2003-04 because of decrease in Kharif area coverage by a significant 6 million hectares during 2004-05;

(b) whether Government apprehends that heat stress caused by raising temperature would adversely affect the ensuring Rabi crops; and

(c) whether Government are working on the hindsight gained from decreased Kharif output, to evolve corrective strategy for the Rabi season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) In 2003-04 the area under Kharif foodgrains, Kharif oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, jute & mesta was 102 million hectares, which declined by 5 million hectares to 97 million hectares during Kharif season of 2004-2005. As a onsequence, the Kharif production of foodgrains and other commercial